



**Cargo Preference News4U**  
**Moving Cargo – Lifeline of the Sea**



**Acting Administrator John Jamian**

**March 2005**

**“FROM THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR”**

Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian recently addressed the Maritime Trades Department's Executive Board in Las Vegas, NV. During that speech, Jamian shared his thoughts on keeping jobs at home. In fact, he stated, "...We want good jobs for Americans here at home. We want a highly capable, efficient transportation system to keep our country number one in today's extremely competitive global economy. And we want to keep America secure at home and strong abroad."

"I believe in the future of the maritime industry and the importance of growth in marine transportation. They are too important to our economy and security for anything less than success," he said.

To view Acting Administrator's Jamian full speech, visit the agency's web site at:  
<http://www.marad.dot.gov/Headlines/speeches/2005/Maritime%20Trade%20Las%20Vegas.htm>

**SEVEN COUNTRIES IN NONCOMPLIANCE STATUS OF ISPS CODE**

The U.S. Coast Guard has published a Port Security Advisory in which it lists seven countries that are in noncompliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS). These countries include Albania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, and Nauru.

It is important to note that vessels calling any of those countries -- named above -- within their last five port calls prior to arrival into the United States will be prohibited entry into the U.S. unless they can document and satisfy USCG requirements regarding their security measures during the calls. To learn more about this advisory, visit USCG's web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/pdf/PSA1-05.pdf>.

Additionally, it is important that vessel owners/operators, exporters, importers, and ocean intermediaries keep abreast of the latest information on the ISPS requirements since it can result in much down time, which ultimately equates to loss of revenue.

## **MARAD Highlights Its Customer—SEALIFT INC.**

Sealift Inc. is a U.S.-flag vessel operator that was established in 1975. The company, which is incorporated in New York, was originally a shipbrokerage house specializing in paper, rice, general cargo and operating breakbulk liner services to the Mediterranean and from Brazil. Since its inception, the company has grown to a level that it now owns and operates a fleet of eleven U.S.-flag, oceangoing ships that includes one tanker, four container vessels, one roll-on/roll-off vessels, four breakbulk vessels, and one heavy-lift vessel. The company employs several hundred skilled U.S. citizen mariners.

Sealift is one of the largest ocean transportation contractors for the U.S. Government. They carry agricultural food aid cargoes, military cargoes, and Iraqi reconstruction cargoes. Their Oyster Bay, New York, office handles all of the company's operations, chartering, engineering, crewing, and accounting.

As noted by Sealift, its greatest asset is its employees as they play a vital role in the company's success. As a result, the company is committed to ensuring its employees a safe and healthy workplace as well as avoiding damage to the marine environment and the cargoes they carry.

Sealift Inc. and other U.S.-flag companies rely on the cargo preference laws to provide base cargoes upon which they can build commercial competitiveness. These preference cargoes allow them to retain the fleet of vessels and employ the skilled American citizen mariners to support our Nation's economic and defense security needs.

## **AROUND MARAD – CENTRAL REGION OFFICE**

The Maritime Administration's Central Region, located in New Orleans, LA, responds to its stakeholders and customers located in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida (Gulf Coast), Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. The Central Region Reserve Fleet is located on the Neches River near Beaumont and the Ship Operations Field Office is near Port Arthur, TX. The Region also is actively engaged in many programs, such as the Heartland Intermodal Partnership, port readiness, port security grants, short sea shipping, container on barge, and military cargo on barge programs.

Beaumont and Corpus Christi as the strategic military ports in the Region are responsible for deploying over 40 percent of the equipment supporting America's forces in IRAQI FREEDOM. U.S.-flag commercial ships have performed their part of the mission while chartered to the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. Recently, two American-flag vessels – the NORTHERN LIGHTS and INDEPENDENCE -- completed redeployment of equipment at the Port of Beaumont in an exemplary fashion.

The NORTHERN LIGHTS, which is owned by Totem Ocean Trailer Express, has been chartered by MSC since 2003. On January 25, 2005, the Ponce-class RO/RO that was stretched for Alaska service discharged 622 pieces of equipment at an average rate of 58 pieces per hour.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the INDEPENDENCE, shown below, and owned by American Roll-On Roll-Off Carriers, discharged 604 pieces of equipment at an average rate of 59 pieces per hour.



The INDEPENDENCE is pictured while moored to her wharf at the Port of Beaumont.  
Photo credit: John Roby, Director of Logistics and Public Affairs, Port of Beaumont

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

MARAD's Office of Cargo Preference will exhibit and make available for distribution hand-out material on the cargo preference program and Maritime Administration. The agency will take part in the following exhibitions:

- Export-Import Bank of the United States Annual Conference – April 14-15, 2005, Washington, DC
- SDDC Transportation Training Symposium & NDTA Expositions, April 25-28, 2005, Nashville, TN
- National Maritime Day Observance, May 19, 2005, Washington, DC

### **NOW HEAR THIS – AN OPEN INVITATION**

The editor of this publication would like to extend an open invitation to each of you to share newsworthy articles with us. If interested, contact Sharon Jenkins at (202) 366-5064 or via email at [Sharon.Jenkins@marad.dot.gov](mailto:Sharon.Jenkins@marad.dot.gov).

To learn more about the cargo preference program, click on [http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo\\_pref.html](http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo_pref.html) or contact us directly at 1-800-9US-FLAG or 202-366-4610. We appreciate each of you taking time to read this newsletter and your involvement in submitting articles for inclusion.

### **SURF OUR WEB TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON:**

- ❖ Cargo preference and its guidelines, [http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo\\_pref.html](http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo_pref.html)
- ❖ U.S. -Flag Service (Destinations from U.S. to Foreign Countries), click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov/usflag/>
- ❖ Humanitarian Food Aid Report, click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/CAPOS%20Reports/>
- ❖ Public Resolution - 17 Waivers, click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/pr17waiver.html>.

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